aurora cultural centre

2017 Annual Report

OUR VISION

The vision of the Aurora Cultural Centre is to be a vibrant centre of cultural and social activity in the heart of Aurora, celebrating the value of creative arts, culture and heritage, and enriching the quality of life of our community.

OUR MISSION

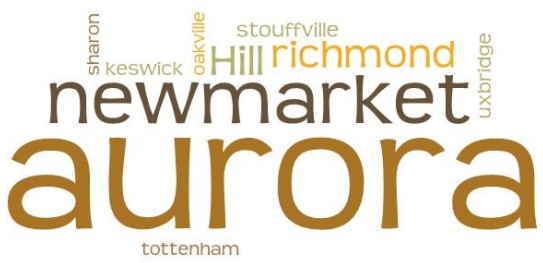
We deliver a diverse range of inspiring artistic, music and heritage programs, and promote Aurora as a dynamic community that values the creative contributions of its citizens. We proudly showcase local, emerging and established talent for our community to enjoy.

Front Cover: Canada 150 Milestones Mural Project; Summer Camps

2017 Highlights

- Celebrated Canada's 150th birthday with a community art project funded by Canadian Heritage
- 300 artists exhibited in the galleries in 9 exhibitions, 13 artist talks, and 6 artist receptions
- 23 curated tours (started in Q3) with 507 participants
- 14 local artists promoted in Gallery Gift Shop
- 15 Live Performing Arts Events
- 21 artists engaged as instructors
- Educational programs enrollment surpassed budgeted participation by 17% with 783 students
- Partnered with Aurora Historical Society and Town of Aurora Museum & Archives for "A Reflection on Vimy"
- Partnered with Aurora Historical Society for Culture Days and Doors Open
- Partnered with the Aurora Museum & Archives for Doors Open

- Maintained Imagine Canada accreditation
- 5 high school co-op students mentored with long-term placements at Centre
- Increased summer student employment opportunities
- Recruited new Executive Director



2017 Educational Registration Patron City

- 8.7 % increase in rental revenue; 9.2% increase in the number of booking events over 2016
- Exceeded 2017 revenue budget by 3%
- Program revenue increased by 13% over 2016
- 738 activations of the building
- 30,289 visitors to the Centre
- Completed 2018-2021 strategic planning process
-

Snapshot of Ongoing Activity

Programs

- Professional music concerts
- Professional children's and family theatre
- Professional and community visual art exhibitions
- Educational arts classes for all ages with professional artists
- Summer art and theatre camps
- Educational lectures, talks and demonstrations with professional artists
- Special community events
- Free community programs
- Multi-cultural events & showcases
- Host site for fundraising marketplaces with community partners
- Collaborate, host and facilitate programs with community partners
- *Community as Curator* Heritage Displays
- Volunteer opportunities
- Community facility rentals

Administration

- In-house management of all facility rentals, activities and events
- Bookkeeping, accounting, audit
- In-house marketing and communications
- Customer services
- Maintain active website and all social media platforms

Governance

- Board of Directors assume fiduciary responsibility for the governance of the Centre and provide broad oversight of the Centre's operations
- Create, review and administer policies and procedures
- Develop & review Strategic Plans
- Oversee all aspects of the organization
- Oversee compliance, legal and reporting protocols
- Ensure compliance with Canada Revenue Agency, Imagine Canada Standards, Provision of Cultural Services Agreement (PCSA), Strategic Plan, Ontario Corporations Act
- Serve as a resource to Town of Aurora for various cultural studies, committees etc.

Accountability and Transparency

As a Registered Charity and a party to the Provision for Cultural Services Agreement (PCSA), the Centre maintains high standards of accountability and transparency.

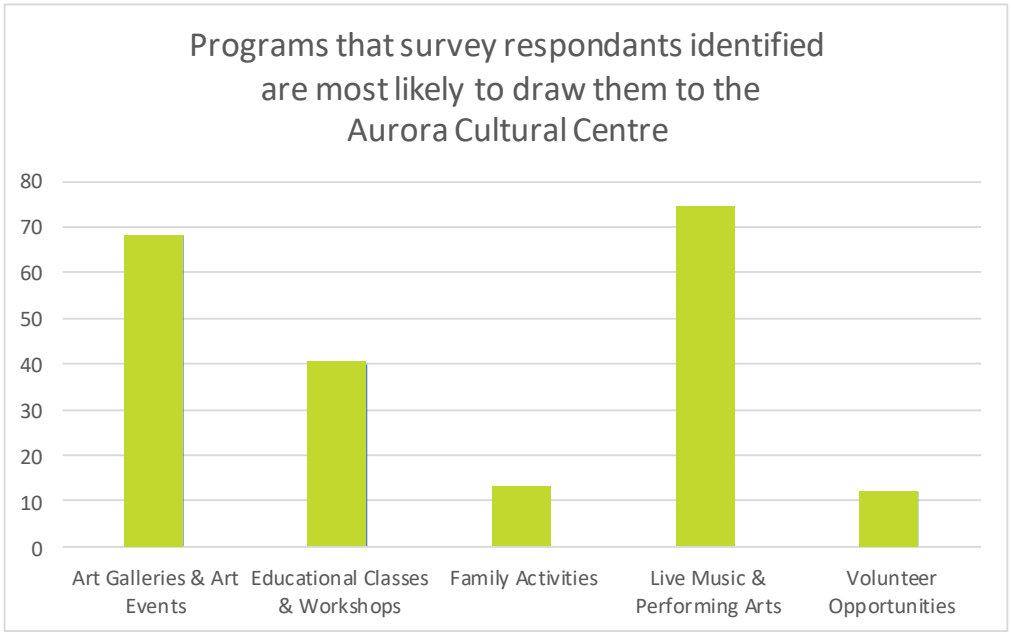
- Reporting to Federal and Provincial governments (e.g. Canada Revenue Agency, Ontario Charities Directorate, OnCorp)
- Reporting to Town of Aurora Council (quarterly reports, annual budget presentation)
- External third party audit
- Maintain Imagine Canada Standards and accreditation
- Continuous oversight of Finance Committee & Treasurer
- 11 Aurora residents volunteer as the Centre's Board of Directors
- Reporting to and meeting with Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
- Documents and operational information widely available to public on Centre's website
- Two Councillors on Centre's Board of Directors
- Quarterly Public Meetings
- Compliance with PCSA reporting and submissions
- Accountability and reporting to our individual and corporate donors as well as grant providers (Trillium, Ontario Arts Council, Heritage Canada etc.)

Key Performance Indicators

KPI (reference to PCSA)		How Calculated	Measure
1a.	Customer satisfaction with Program mix	Question in Annual customer satisfaction survey	87.5% satisfied or extremely satisfied
1b.	Customer Satisfaction with Quality Level 1. Educational Programs 2. Gallery Programs 3. Live Performing Arts Programs 4. Special Events 5. Volunteer Program	Question in Annual customer satisfaction survey	In 2017 we asked about each program to see how those using them found their quality (ranked satisfied or extremely satisfied) 87% 90% 94% 77% 66%
1c.	Customer Satisfaction with overall Governance	Question in Annual customer satisfaction survey	87.5% satisfied or extremely satisfied
1d.	Customer Recognition and Awareness of Centre	Question in Annual customer satisfaction survey	On a scale of 1-5 the participants rated their perception of how well the Centre is known at 3.5 on a weighted average.
2.	Programming spending vs. total spending	Programming Spend / Total Spend	75%
3.	Programming hours per capita	Programming hours / population	9.52%
4.	Town Grant as % of Total Revenue	Town Grant / Total Revenue	55%
5.	Town Grant per capita	Town Grant/ Population	$6.98
6.	Number of Partnerships	Current year partners	75
7.	Volunteer hours as a % of total hours to operate the Centre annually	(Paid + Volunteer hours) / total volunteer hours	14.7%
8.	Number of Visits Annually	Current year visits	30,289

The Cultural Centre is a true jewel in our town. Thank you for the great job you do!

2017 survey respondent



Question 7, 2017 Community Survey

Programs at the Aurora Cultural Centre

Live Performing Arts

Han Chen, piano	20/Jan/17	Great Artist Music Series
John Sheard presents Beatles Classics 2	27/Jan/17	Popular Music Series
Friday Night Blues (Braithwaite/Whiteley)	10/Feb/17	Popular Music Series
Lennie Gallant	17/Mar/17	Popular Music Series
Janina Fialkowska, piano	23/Mar/17	Great Artist Music Series
John Sheard presents Lynn Miles	7/Apr/17	Popular Music Series
Luca Buratto, piano	27/Apr/17	Great Artist Music Series
Sing-a-Long-a Sound of Music	6/May/17	Community Special Event
Slocan Ramblers	12/May/17	Popular Music Series
John Sheard presents Russell deCarle	9/Jun/17	Popular Music Series
Beauty & The Beast	23/Aug/17	Family Theatrical Event
Union Duke	13/Oct/17	Popular Music Series
The Gryphon Trio	3/Nov/17	Great Artist Music Series
Remi Bolduc Jazz Quartet - Swingin' w/ Oscar	10/Nov/17	Popular Music Series
Sultans of String Christmas Caravan	7/Dec/17	Popular Music Series
Peter Pan	9/Dec/17	Family Theatrical Event

Bonnie Kraft, Artistic Director, Great Artist Music Series with Janina Fialkowska

Peter Pan, December 2017
Duffelbag Theatre

Special Events

Each family theatrical event culminates with an art activity for the audience

March Break 2017

A Reflection on Vimy: 100 Years Later

International Festival of Authors
Lit On Tour

We'll Meet Again, Community Sing-a-long; June 2017

Gallery Exhibitions

Exhibition Name 2017	Exhibit Dates
SOYRA Showcase 2017 Group Exhibition	January 7 - 29
Youth Art Exhibition	February 4 - March 4
art heals Group Exhibition	March 11- May 6
Lush Gravitas Allan O'Marra	March 11 - May 6
MOSAIC Ontario Society of Artists 145th Anniversary Exhibition & Sale	May 11 - August 5
Call to Action #83 Quest for Truth & Reconciliation Group Exhibition	August 12 - November 11
Watershed Liz Menard	August 12 - November18
Lesson Learned: From classroom to gallery Group Exhibition of Aurora Cultural Centre instructors and students	November 23 - December 30
1917- Canada Comes of Age, a story told in visual images Group Exhibition	November 30 - December 30

"I'm a Toronto city woman, born and bred, but I am very proud to have called Aurora my home for the last 23 years and what "our" Cultural Centre has evolved into is no small part of that pride. I have taken courses there, attended many excellent concerts and wandered through many art exhibits. Every experience was a good one, many were great. I love the whole aura of the place!!." **2017 survey**

Educational Classes

#Canada150, Ages 11-15/Spring
Abstract Art Through Time, Ages 4-6/Spring
Abstract Art Through Time, Ages 7-10/Winter
Art in Stories & Pictures, Ages 4-6/Fall
Beginning Guitar/Fall
Beginning Guitar/Spring
Beyond Beginning Guitar/Spring
Colour Around Us, Ages 4-6/Winter
Colour Around Us, Ages 7-10/Spring
Creative Impact Photography/Spring
Creative Photography/Fall
Discover Pastels/Winter
Drawing, Sketching, Pen & Ink/Fall
Drawing, Sketching, Pen & Ink/Spring
Drawing, Sketching, Pen & Ink/Winter
Expand Your Horizons in Acrylics Level 2/Fall
Expand Your Horizons in Acrylics Level 2/Spring
Expand Your Horizons in Acrylics Level 2/Winter
Exploring Watercolours - Afternoon/Fall
Exploring Watercolours - Morning/Fall
Faces & Places, Ages 11-15/Fall
Famous Artists & Their Styles, Ages 7-10/Fall
Great Canadian Landscapes - Watercolours/Spring
Mixed Media Mashup Ages 7-10/Week 1
Mixed Media Mashup Ages 7-10/Week 2
Mixed Media Mashup Ages 7-10/Week 3
Mixed Media Mashup Ages 7-10/Week 4
Mixed Media Mashup Ages 7-10/Week 5
Mixed Media Mashup Ages 7-10/Week 6
Mixed Media Mashup Ages 7-10/Week 7
Mixed Media Mashup Ages 7-10/Week 8
Modern Art From Around the World, Ages 11-15/Winter
Open Studio/Fall
Open Studio/Spring
Open Studio/Winter
Paper Floral Arrangement/Spring
Reflections of Autumn/Fall
Silver Wire Jewellery/Fall
Silver Wire Jewellery/Spring
Start Painting Now with Acrylics/Fall
Start Painting Now with Acrylics/Spring
Start Painting Now with Acrylics/Winter
Swords & Stage, Ages 8-13/Week 1
Swords & Stage, Ages 8-13/Week 2
The Art of Calligraphy/Fall
The Art of Calligraphy/Spring
The Art of Calligraphy/Spring
The Art of Calligraphy/Winter
The Colours of Snow - Watercolours - Level 1/Winter
The Colours of Snow - Watercolours - Level 2/Winter
The Magic of Pastels/Fall
The Signs of Spring - Watercolours - Afternoon/Spring
The Signs of Spring - Watercolours - Evening/Spring
Ukulele for Beginners/Fall
Ukulele for Beginners/Winter
Watercolour Cookies/Spring
What is Printmaking?/Fall
Wood Carving/Fall
Wood Carving/Winter
You Can Uke It! Ages 11-15/Winter
Young Artist Studio, Ages 4-6/Week 1
Young Artist Studio, Ages 4-6/Week 2
Young Artist Studio, Ages 4-6/Week 3
Young Artist Studio, Ages 4-6/Week 4
Young Artist Studio, Ages 4-6/Week 5
Young Artist Studio, Ages 4-6/Week 6
Young Artist Studio, Ages 4-6/Week 7
Young Artist Studio, Ages 4-6/Week 8

Community Rentals

Addiction Services of York Region
Aids Committee of York Region
Aurora Community Band
Aurora High School
Aurora Music Academy*
Aurora Oak-Ridges Richmond Hill Ont Liberal Assoc.
Aurora Winters Blues Fest/Music Aurora
Axiom Group*
Berleig Group*
CAMH - Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Camphill Communities Ontario*
Central Counties Tourism
CMHA - Canadian Mental Health Association
Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School
Eating Disorders of York Region
Edward Jones, Aurora
Etsy Marketplace
Family Services of York Region
Girl Guides #37
Gran Aurora
Highland Gate Development*
IESO - Independent Electricity System Operator*
Investors Group, Newmarket
Kerry's Place Autism Service
Krasman Centre
Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Leona Alleslev MP
Ontario Dental Hygienists
Ontario Water Centre
OPSEU - On Public Service Employee Union*
ORMTA Newmarket Aurora (ON Registered Music Teachers' Association)
Paskke String Quartet
Pastel Association Canada
Pine Tree Potters' Guild
Roger White Academy
Sandgate Women's Shelters York Region
Society of York Region Artists
The Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'i of Aurora*

Third Age Learning - York Region
Upper Canada Chorus*
Windfall Ecology Centre
Women's Support Network of York Region
York Region Lifetime Facilitation
York Region Arts Council
York Region Chamber Music
YorK Region Children's Chorus
York Region Community & Health Services
York Region Corporate Services
York Region District School Board
York Region Environmental Services
York Region Transportation Services
York Small Business Enterprise Ctr.
York Support Services Network

+ 12 Private Rentals

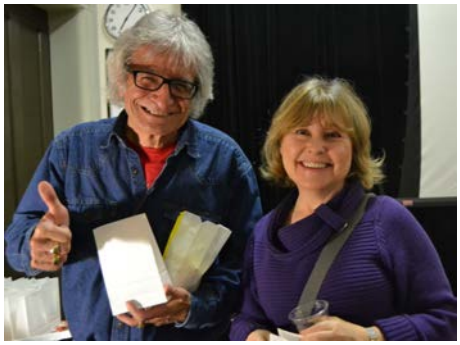
*New rentals

Renter for 5+ years

Volunteer & Co-op Programs

Volunteers continue to be an important indicator of community participation with the Centre.

Our volunteer hours are tracked in two streams: Governance Hours (Board of Directors) and Operational Hours (volunteers assisting with programs or administration etc). Combined, they clearly show the significant support the Centre enjoys from the community.



Our volunteers range in age from 15 into their 70's; some volunteer as husband and wife couples, some as families, many as individuals – all of whom are dedicated to the Centre and are excited to be involved.

Volunteers Provide Significant Value and Support to the Centre

Based on the 3670 total volunteer hours donated to the Centre in 2017 --- generous supporters of the Centre generated $59,824.26 (average of value of $16.30/ hour) in administrative, governance and operational support to the Centre and to Aurora.

April 2017 Volunteer Appreciation Event

Community Impact

In 2017 the Centre:

- provided high value volunteer opportunities for High School volunteer hours,
- hired four Aurora youth to lead our summer camp programs,
- welcomed and mentored local Co-op students in annual long-term placement opportunities,
- provided graduating high school art classes with professional art gallery exhibitions,
- purchased local: event refreshments, catering, office and program supplies, linen laundering, printing and signage, event rentals, banking, furnishings, advertising, strategic planning, auditing,
- enthusiastically promoted local restaurants for visitors, rentals, and for before and after Centre events,
- was the proud "home of" many community partners, including: Society of York Region Artists, Aurora Community Band, Pine Tree Potters' sales events and Empty Bowls fundraiser, and Third Age Learning York Region.

An Engaged Partner with the Town of Aurora

Promoting Recognition of the Town of Aurora

There are numerous occasions when staff and Board act as ambassadors to promote the Town of Aurora; such as:

- recognition for achievements and awards,
- when speaking at, or attending regional, provincial and national conferences,
- participating in planning sessions,
- when Aurora Cultural Centre is the subject of an article or editorial or on television,
- when the Centre is recognized for best practices on other organizations' websites,
- public acknowledgement of Town of Aurora support at Centre events, on posters, documents and website,
- 400 series highway signs.

77% of Canadians agree or strongly agree "Arts/heritage experiences help me feel part of my local community" Phoenix Strategic Perspectives, Arts and Heritage: Access and Availability, 2012

Driving the Cultural Master Plan Forward

Strategic Direction 1: Define the Municipality's Role and Build Partnerships

- Address Administrative and Resource Requirements to Implement the Plan
- Build and Sustain Public, Private and Community Partnerships

The Aurora Cultural Centre has a strong relationship with the Town in the Provision of Cultural Services agreement. Through relationship management, has continued to build alliances and partnerships with the Town departments and within the cultural sector.

Strategic Direction 2: Expand Culture's Role in Economic Development

Strategies:

- Leverage Cultural and Heritage Resources to Support Downtown Revitalization
- Grow Aurora's Creative Cultural Industries
- Expand Tourism

The programs at the Aurora Cultural Centre define the professional performing and visual art programming for the community. Establishing strong artistic programming in both presentation and education has drawn patrons from across York, Simcoe, Dufferin and the Greater Toronto Region to the programming. This supports tourism objectives and promotes Aurora as a community with vibrant artistic and cultural services for employers and employees to enjoy. It further supports indrect economies in retail, restaurants, transportation and travel industries.

Strategic Direction 3: Build a Strong and Vital Cultural Sector

Strategies:

- Strengthen Collaboration Among Cultural and Heritage Groups
- Increase Awareness of Cultural Resources
- Build on Current Activities to Strengthen Festivals and Events

The Aurora Cultural Centre is a hub of activity for Arts and Culture with the facility being used for cultural activities by a variety of artistic and culturally specific groups; and its professional staff being recognized and sought out to participate throughout York Region and beyond in policy discussions, cultural leadership opportunities, and other events that grow cultural industries and outcomes.

Strategic Direction 4: Enhance Access to Cultural Resources

Strategies:

- Respond to the Cultural Aspirations of an Increasingly Diverse Community
- Promote Participation in Cultural Activities Across the Community
- Address the Needs of Youth and Seniors in the Community

As seen in the next section, the Aurora Cultural Centre responds to diversity in many forms including presentation in our professional series across ethnicities, cultural boundaries, genres of art, and age to include youth, adults and seniors.

Embracing Accessibility and Inclusion

We continue to embrace the growth of a diverse Aurora as demonstrated in the following presentations:

- *St. Jean Baptiste* Québécois celebrations and French-language music concerts,
- Ramadan *Iftar* Community Fast-Breaking Dinners,
- *Day of the Dead* Mexican Cultural photo exhibition and talk,
- *Call to Action #83: Eight Indigenous and Eight Non-Indigenous Artists' Quest for Truth and Reconciliation* featuring indigenous and non-indigenous artists working together to build a travelling exhibition,
- Wampum Belts Woven Through Anishnabee History with Brian Charles, a Band member of the Chippewas of Georgina Island
- Steel Drums celebration of Caribbean Culture,
- Persian Cultural Celebration for Culture Days,
- South Asian food, art & dance event,
- celebrations of *National Aboriginal Day*; facilitated First Nations dance circles and ceremonial smudging; First Nations, Métis and Inuit female artists' exhibition and public facilitated conversations, a *Reveal* smudging and celebration,
- South African Township Music,
- African Gospel,
- Celtic & East Coast music,
- Oktoberfest,
- Brazilian Capoeira for Family Day,

- Brazil Classical Guitar Duo,
- Chinese New Year art and activities,
- many culturally diverse exhibitions of art supported by various talks and conversations such as; Passage; Nepali Photo Essay; Passage Between Two Worlds; Faces of War; Who Am I? In search of an Answer, and A Lens on Africa,
- summer children's programs offering culturally specific themes to discover art through an ethnically specific lens, and
- world music for adults and families.

Diversity and Inclusion Charter for York Region

We are a participant in the York Region initiative "Let's Talk Inclusion" focusing on diversity in all of its forms.

Cultural Access Pass – Welcoming our Newest Citizens

In partnership with the *Institute for Canadian Citizenship,* to introduce new Canadian citizens to cultural offerings here, and across the Country, we are the first stop of newcomers in their pursuit and interest of cultural activities in York Region.

We are an easily-accessible location in the heart of York Region.

In 2017 we welcomed 95 new Canadian citizens to Aurora.

Culture for All – We are Accessible

The Centre offers a mix of programs aimed to be accessible for the community. This includes some free family activities, and free access to the Centre and its four art galleries.

Ticket prices and registration fees are in line or lower than other professional venue to reduce financial barriers to participation.

The Centre actively seeks out sponsors who make it possible for us to bring at least one professional show to the community for free annually.

In 2017 we delivered 9 free community events at a cost to the Centre of only $1,500.

We make our artist space available free of charge as an open studio one day per week for artists to create together, rather than working in isolation.

We requested and received enhanced accessibility wayfinding signage for the exterior of the Centre. We have protocols in place to assist with the accessibility needs of our visitors.

Responding to the Needs of Children & Youth

2017 Youth Art Exhibit

We invite and mentor Aurora high school art students to plan, create, hang and launch youth driven art exhibitions in the Centre's professional galleries.

Centre staff spend a significant amount of time in the classroom, and outside of it, assisting with the student art program.

The Centre welcomed children and their families to three sold out theatrical events as part of our commitment to programming for our youngest citizens.

We mentored seven local high school students with a minimum of 120 hours each of individual onsite programming annually. This includes developing a unique program to support student goals, provide engaged daily supervision mentorship and training with final evaluations with the teacher.

In the 2017 fiscal year, students came to the Centre requesting to gain experience in the areas of Gallery Administration, Event Management & Marketing, Curation & Marketing, and Research.

In 2017 the Centre provided an enriched short term placement for a Queen's University student specializing in Arts and Museum Education. We mentored the student on all facets of her education and invited her to design and facilitate her own free after-school drop-in workshop for youth and their families.

To inspire artistically-minded young people, we make an effort to present some early career visual artists and classical performing artists, and provide student concert rates that allow young people access to rising stars in their genres.

Responding to the Interests of Seniors

The Centre is a "senior-friendly," accessible environment with supportive and knowledgeable staff.

We are the home of *Third Age Learning York Region,* a fall and spring lecture series specifically for seniors.

We offer daytime art classes and Open Studio which by virtue of timing is comprised primarily of seniors.

Moderately priced, world-class concerts are a draw to seniors who consistently rave about having the opportunity to enjoy music in their own town without having to drive downtown.

We partner annually with the Aurora Seniors' Centre for a free sing-along, where we welcome a large number of seniors to sing the songs of their youth. Planned to occur on, or close to, the anniversary of D-Day, we also include recognition of the Canadian and British war effort.

We work closely with local seniors' residences and create enhanced visitor experiences with tours and art talks designed for seniors.

Support for the Aurora Cultural Centre

Gallery Sponsor

Activity Room Sponsor

Media Sponsor

Production Sponsors

Education Sponsor

Hospitality

Corporate Donors

Almac Industrial Systems

David Schembri Design

Dentistry on Church

Financial Executives International Canada – Toronto Chapter

Hunter's Gate Dental, Dr. Kim Mason

Intercity Insurance Services

Lester B. Pearson Public School

Orchard Heights Dental Centre

PromotionalMarketing.ca

Rutherford Contracting Inc.

TACC Developments

TD Canada Trust

Wellington Aurora Dental

Support from Individuals

Andrea Laws
Anonymous
Anuja Varghese
Arianne Griffiths
Belinda Hope
Bonnie & Norbert Kraft
Camille Anderson
Carol Mather
Carol Sharp
Christa Nimmo
Clare Bolton
Craig Mather
Damien Chan
Dianne McKnight
Dirkje Trivett
Elizabeth Maynard-Gregg
Eric Acker
Erin Ava Taylor
Frank Pulumbarit
Gay King
Heidi Franken
Henny Dawe
Jack & Vera Howard
James & Sharon Bradley
Jamie MacDonald
Jan Freedman
Jane Taylor
Joao Canhoto & Suzanne Haines
John Gallo
Joyce Deutch
Karen Johnston
Karin Allan
Kate Avery
Laura Lawrence
Laura Schembri
Lorraine Hill
Marlene & Fred Ash
Mary Jeanne Oliver
Maureen Campbell
Mukhlis Mutlag
Nancy Carswell
Nancy Sallie
Numan Koca
Patricia Wallace
Renee Wilson
Rhonda Leslie Ray
Robin Enotera
Ruth Johnson
Sandra Leonard
Sandra Smith
Sharon Kelly
Susan Miller
Tazra Miller
Tina Rogers
Warren & Kerrie Cantor

2017 Financial Snapshot

REVENUE	2017	% of total
Grant – Town of Aurora Operating Grant	405,600	54.72%
Grants – other	74,621	10.07%
Programs	224,906	30.34%
Fundraising grants, donations & sponsorships	36,048	4.86%
TOTAL Revenue	**741,175**	
EXPENSES		
Salaries and benefits	477,666	63.80%
Grants	22,422	2.99%
Programs	155,994	20.84%
Professional fees	22,310	2.98%
Fundraising	1,780	0.24%
Amortization	10,459	1.40%
OTHER (Office, phone, equip lease, bank, insurance)	58,039	7.75%
TOTAL Expense	**748,670**	
Excess/(Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures	(7,495)	

2017 Reserves

Classical Fund Reserve	$ 68,541
Contingency Reserve	$125,000
Special Project Reserve	$ 20,000

*Includes extraordinary cost for ED recruitment

2010 – 2017 Dashboard

Town of Aurora Operating Grant

2010 **90%** of total revenue achieved from TOA operating grant

2017 **54.55%** of total revenue achieved from TOA operating grant

Centre's Total Earned Revenue (<u>not</u> including TOA grant), shows impressive growth

2010 $38,698

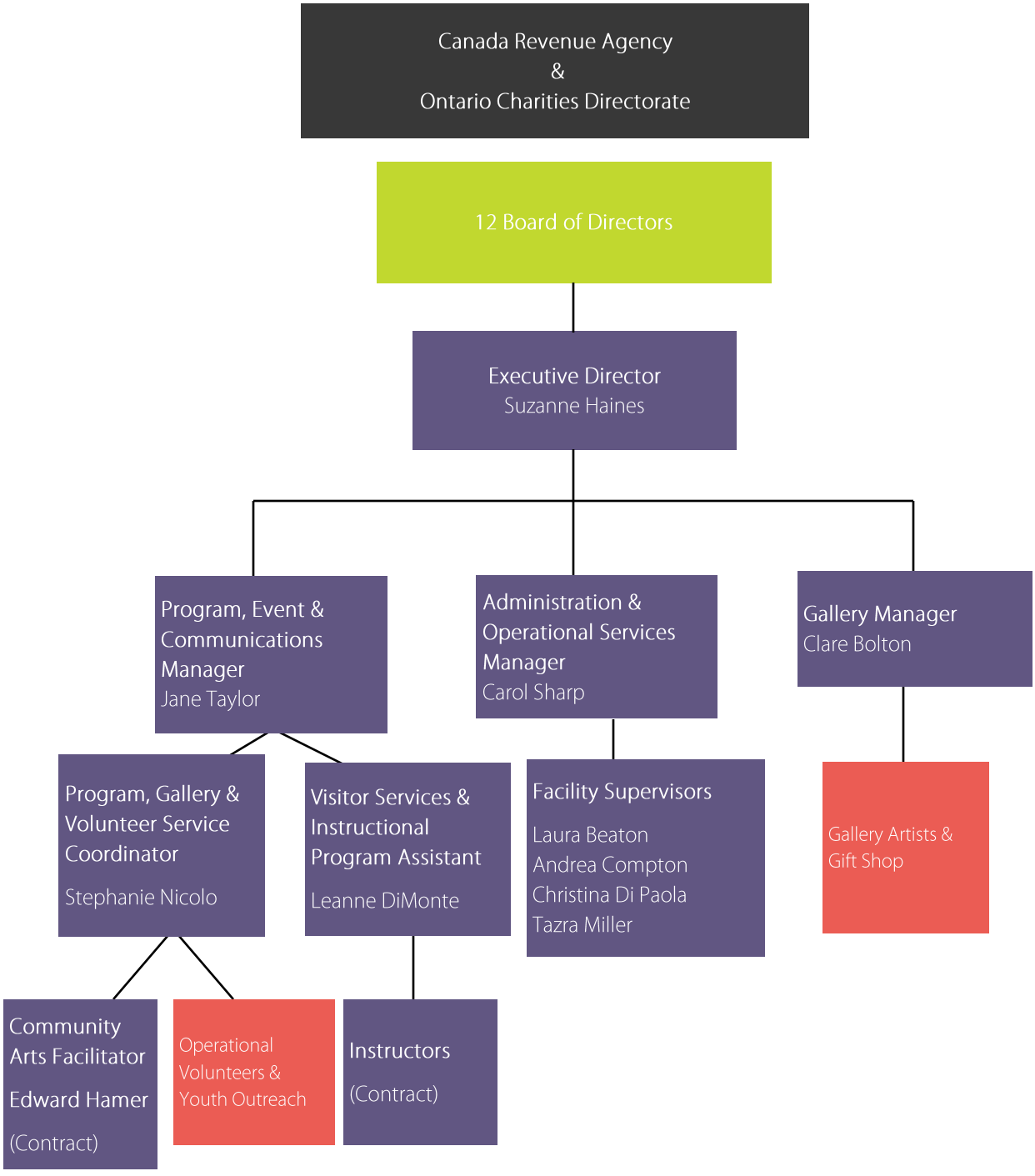
2017 $337,974 (773% ↑)

Centre's Earned Revenue strictly from Programs, shows continuous growth

2010 $25,975

2017 $224,906 (766% ↑)

Organizational Leadership, Structure & Responsibilities



Board of Directors (as of December 2017)

President	Craig Mather, BSc., Eng.	Served as the CAO for the Toronto & Region Conservation Authority from 1992 to 2003 with a staff of 250. The Province of Ontario appointee to the International Joint Commission's Water Quality Board, former National Director of the Canadian Water Resource Association, and former Director on the Board of the Toronto Centre for the Arts.
Vice President	Eric Acker, B.A., B.A (HON)	His professional career began in the early 1970s in the political milieu of Ottawa. He then spent sixteen years in the aerospace industry followed by fourteen years in the health sector. Eric retired after serving as President of one of Canada's largest behavioural health companies where his focus was on operations including human resources, information technology, finance, customer relations and service delivery. Born and educated in Nova Scotia, Eric made Aurora his home in 1989.
Treasurer	Heidi Franken, CPA, CA	A Senior Forensic Accountant in the Enforcement Branch of the Ontario Securities Commission, she has also worked in the Corporate Finance Branch and Office of the Chief Accountant at the OSC. Prior to joining the OSC, she managed assurance engagements for both corporate and non-profit clients at PWC. She holds an Honours Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Brock University. Heidi joined the Board in October 2010 and has lived in Aurora for 13 years.
Secretary	Karen Johnston, B.A., M.B.A	A marketing professional with significant experience in creating and executing strategic plans that deliver exceptional business results. A leader who fosters an environment of creativity and works to inspire the team to solve business issues with creative yet cost effective solutions. Experience gained in corporate and not for profit sectors.
Director	Damien Chan	VP Personal and Small Business Technology at CIBC with responsibility to transform the client experience in the Banking Centre's. Prior to this, Damien was a Client Director at HP Enterprise and IBM Canada. Damien is also a mentor at Futurpreneur Canada for young entrepreneurs.

Director	John Gallo B.A, Arch. Tech.	Resident of Aurora for 20 years. Member of Aurora Council for 7 years. Chair of Central York Fire, Environmental Advisory Committee, Trails and Active Transportation Committee. Current Director at Aurora Soccer Club. Principal in a property management company for 15 years.
Director	Sharon Kelly BA Political Science & History B Ed. BFA, Theatre Arts MA, Administration & Counselling	Educator with 42 years of experience with the Toronto Catholic District School Board. Served in a variety of roles: elementary and secondary teacher, department head, consultant, program designer and administrator. Spent 10 years at Covenant House developing in-house school. Chair of Project Work and a variety of board committees with the focus of integration for students with developmental and/or physical disabilities. Member of community colleges' advisory committees.
Director	Mike Kennedy	Currently Partner and Principal, arc Health Management. Active volunteer as coach and trainer in Aurora Minor Hockey Association and Newmarket Ball Hockey Association.
Director	Mukhlis Mutlag, B.Sc.Eng., PMP	The Manager of Construction and Facilities at Canada's Wonderland and previously served as the Senior Manager Operations and Infrastructure with Ontario Place Corporation. He holds a Degree in Civil Engineering and is a certified Project Management Professional. He brings his knowledge and experience with best practices in corporate procurement and governance. Mukhlis has lived in Aurora since 2002
Director	Bonnie Silver-Kraft, B.MUS, A.R.C.T.	An internationally respected producer and editor of classic music CD's. Recognized as one of the top producers in the classical music field, she was awarded a Grammy in 2010 for music production, and has had 3 Grammy nominations. As North American Artist and Repertoire Consultant for Naxos Records, the largest classical label in the world, she has introduced some of Canada's finest classical musicians to the international CD market. In 2012 Bonnie was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. She and her husband Norbert have lived in Aurora since 1994.
Ex Officio Director	Councillor Wendy Gaertner	
Ex Officio Director	Councillor Tom Mrakas	

The Aurora Cultural Centre is proud to deliver cultural services on behalf of the Town of Aurora in the beautifully-restored Church Street School heritage site. We thank the Town of Aurora for its significant support since 2009.

We share common a desire to *"support an exceptional quality of life for all"*[1] through the delivery of inspired cultural services to our community.

Together we *"expand opportunities and partnerships that contribute to the celebration of culture in the community".*[2]

@AuroraCulture

AuroraCulturalCentre

Auroraculturalcentre

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[1] Objective No. 3, Town of Aurora Strategic Plan
[2] Community Goal No. 2, Town of Aurora Strategic Plan